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Ocean City Fire Department  
Standard Operating Guidelines

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## EMS Operations

Subject: Non -EMS Observer Program  
Revised: 9-2-10  
Effective: 9-13-10  
Approved: 9-2-10 (Fire Chief)  
Section: 308.00

### 308.01 Purpose

To establish the necessary criteria and procedures for the authorization of non-EMS observers on Career Division vehicles.

### 308.02 Policy

- A. Authorized observers must meet the following criteria:
  - 1. The rider must be 18 years of age or older.
    - a. if under the age of 18, the rider must have a parental consent form, to be obtained from the Career Division Command Staff.
- B. Special request for observers may be approved by any Career Division Command Officer.
- C. Priorities for observers are as follows:
  - 1. Ocean City Fire Department personnel
  - 2. Town of Ocean City personnel
  - 3. Worcester County Volunteer Fire Company personnel
- D. All observers will complete a "Rider Waiver Form" prior to an observation ride. Completed forms will be submitted to the on duty Command Officer.
- E. All observers will finish their ride time by 2300 hours.

### 308.03 Dress code for Riders

- A. The rider will be advised to wear dark colored pants, dark boots or shoes, and an approved "home department" T-Shirt or a dark colored collared shirt.
- B. All observers will have, and wear, a high visibility vest as defined by OCFD SOG.
- C. The rider will also wear an "Observer" identification card/pin.

### 308.04 Procedure

- A. A written request for riders should be submitted to a Career Command Officer at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the planned date.
- B. All members of the crew must agree to have the observer.

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- C. A "Rider Waiver Form" will be submitted to the Duty Officer upon arrival.
- D. Unscheduled observations are at the discretion of the Duty Officer.
- E. Upon arrival of the observer, the crew will escort the student around the station while informing of the basic rules of the Department. The rider will be shown where to be seated on the vehicle.
- F. On a fire alarm, the rider shall stay with the vehicle to which they are assigned, and may not engage in fire suppression activities. The exceptions are members of Ocean City Fire Department or other Worcester County fire departments.
- G. All participants in the observer program shall follow the rules and regulations of the Ocean City Fire Department as established by the Fire Chief.
- H. At no time will a non-EMS observer engage in any form of patient contact or interventions.